

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 285

By Dean

A RESOLUTION relative to the REAL ID Act of 2005.

WHEREAS, the federal REAL ID Act of 2005, Public Law 109-12, creates a national identification card by mandating federal standards for state driver's licenses and identification cards and requires states to share their motor vehicle databases; and

WHEREAS, the REAL ID Act mandates the documents that states must require to issue driver's licenses and requires states to place uniform information on every driver's license in a standard, machine-readable format; and

WHEREAS, the REAL ID Act requires the creation of a massive public sector database containing information on every American that is accessible to all motor vehicle employees and law enforcement officers nationwide and that can be used to gather and manage information on citizens; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being terrible public policy, the REAL ID Act places a costly, unfunded mandate on states, with initial estimates for Tennessee of more than one hundred million dollars, plus the additional burden of millions of taxpayers dollars in ongoing annual expenses, and a national estimate of more than eleven billion dollars over the five years following its implementation; and

WHEREAS, in these dire economic times, the massive costs that will be incurred by Tennessee, and other states, in implementing the REAL ID Act are especially onerous; and

WHEREAS, by December 1, 2014, Americans who are fifty (50) years of age and younger will be required to present REAL ID-compliant identification to board commercial aircraft and to access certain federal facilities; by December 1, 2017, all state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards must be REAL ID-compliant; and

WHEREAS, the deadline for the initial implementation of the REAL ID Act has already been extended for all fifty (50) states from May 11, 2008 until December 31, 2009; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that in light of the recessionary nature of our economy at this time and the many budgetary hardships being faced by state governments, this General Assembly hereby memorializes the United States Congress to extend the deadlines for all phases of the states' implementation of the REAL ID Act for at least an additional two (2) years, or preferably, repeal the REAL ID Act of 2005 in its entirety.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we strongly urge and encourage each member of Tennessee's delegation to the U.S. Congress to exert the full measure of his or her influence to accomplish the actions delineated in the first resolving clause.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, and each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation.